



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993  
Phone No. 717-237-2100

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February 25, 2008

**PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA230-8-1**

**SUBJECT: EOP – AgrAbility**

**Purpose: To provide all employees with information on AgrAbility as a tool for our Disability Outreach**

**Expiration Date: September 30, 2008**

**Background:** AgrAbility is an excellent example of a customer-driven USDA-funded program that reaches an under-served agricultural population through much needed education, assistance and support. NRCS employees can assist by making our customers with long-term disabilities aware of this opportunity. The goal of our Outreach Program is to ensure that all our services are available and accessible by all potential customers throughout the state. We have several different Special Emphasis Programs including Women, Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander/Hawaiian Native, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Veteran/Disability. Every opportunity we get, we need to provide more information and utilize more tools to help us reach our outreach objectives. AgrAbility is an excellent tool. AgrAbility can help provide on-site assessments of farm operations, make recommendations on adaptive farm equipment and home modifications, and refer farm families to local service providers and potential funding sources. Accommodations such as lifts and additional steps on tractors and automatic gate openers are examples of the possibilities under this program.

**Action:**

1. The Outreach Coordinator will mail this bulletin along with 5 copies of the AgrAbility brochure to each office. Additional brochures can be obtained from Travis Watkins in the State Office.
2. All District Conservationists, upon receipt of this bulletin, are to file the bulletin in the 230 file and store the AgrAbility brochures in a central location where they are available to customers or to employees to take to the farm.
3. All employees, upon receipt of this bulletin, are to become familiar with the information in the AgrAbility brochure as well as the location in the office where they are filed.
4. All employees are to provide information on AgrAbility, as appropriate.

Questions or requests for assistance may be directed to Travis Watkins (Outreach Coordinator) at 717-237-2147 or [travis.watkins@pa.usda.gov](mailto:travis.watkins@pa.usda.gov) and/or Dave Lopes (Disability Special Emphasis Program Manager) at 814-445-6876 or [david.lopes@pa.usda.gov](mailto:david.lopes@pa.usda.gov).

/s/ William J. Bowers, Acting

CRAIG R. DERICKSON  
State Conservationist

Distribution: AE